

Atty. Dkt. No. 041673-2092

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 6, 8 through 14, 16 through 21, and 23 through 64 are now pending in this application.

In response to the previous Office Action, the claims of Group I (claims 2-6, 8-13, 27-42, 52-61) drawn to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric TNF α ligand polypeptide, including vectors, genetic constructs, host cells and processes of producing said chimeric TNF α ligand polypeptide were elected without traverse.

The Office Action further required an election as between species of the claimed molecules with respect to the domains present in each molecule, and species from which they are obtained. In this respect, Applicants elected the species of polynucleotide encoding a chimeric molecule in which Domain III is a fragment of human CD154 Domain III lacking a metalloproteinase cleavage site and Domain IV is from human TNF α . For purposes of expedited prosecution, claims including limitations not directly consonant with the species election made were withdrawn, without prejudice.

The current Office Action requires that Applicant elect a species for each Domain covered by the claims of Group I. In this respect, Applicant submits that only Domains III and IV or segments thereof need be present in the chimeric molecules of the invention, whereas the presence of other domains is optional. With respect to each such domain, however, Applicant elects the following species as comprising each domain: Domain I = CD154; Domain II = CD154; Domain III = CD154; and Domain IV = TNF α . This election is made without traverse.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this Amendment. If, however, additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees, excepting any issue fee, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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